

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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28. (canceled)
29. (New) An apparatus for playing a word based lottery game, comprising:
a game input unit for receiving an alphabetical play phrase from a user;
a wager input device for receiving a wager from the user; and

a controller operatively coupled to the game input unit and the wager input device, the controller being capable of generating a random character string and assigning a prize value to the alphabetical play phrase, the controller also determining a payout value based upon, at least, the correlation among the character string, the alphabetical play phrase, the prize value, and the wager.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is received through a word based lottery play slip.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, the word based lottery play slip further comprising:

a first section, the first section containing the alphabetical play phrase; and
a selection section, the selection section allowing the alphabetical play phrase to be coded.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is manually input by the user.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the alphabetical play phrase is selected by the user from a menu of phrases.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a ticket printer capable of generating a word based lottery ticket.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, the word based lottery ticket further comprising:

a pre-printed section, the pre-printed section listing a pre-printed play phrase; and
a covered section, the covered section including the random character string.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, the pre-printed play phrase being the same as the alphabetical play phrase.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the covered section can be removed to reveal the random character string.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, the pre-printed play phrase being comprised of a plurality of words and a prize is associated with each word in the pre-printed phrase.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the prize associated with each word may be changed by the user.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein if the random character string matches a word in the pre-printed play phrase, the user wins a prize associated with the word.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein if the random character string contains all characters of a word in the pre-printed play phrase, the user wins a prize associated with the word.

42. (New) A method for playing a word based lottery game, comprising the steps of:
receiving an alphabetical play phrase from a user;
receiving a wager from the user;
generating a random character string;
determining a correlation among the alphabetical play phrase, the random character string, and the wager; and
determining a payout value based upon, at least, the correlation.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the step of reading the alphabetical play phrase from a word based lottery play slip.

44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the step of receiving digits keyed in manually by the user.

45. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the step of receiving the alphabetical play phrase further comprises the steps of:
presenting a menu of phrases to the user; and
receiving a selection from the user.
46. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of printing a word based lottery ticket, the word based lottery ticket comprising:
a pre-printed section, the pre-printed section listing a pre-printed play phrase, the pre-printed play phrase having a plurality of words; and
a covered section, the covered section including the random character string.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of associating a prize with each word in the pre-printed phrase.
48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of modifying the prize associated with each word.
49. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising the steps of:
determining a match between the random character string and the plurality of words in the pre-printed play phrase; and
awarding a prize based on the match to the user.
50. (New) A lottery ticket, comprising:
a pre-printed section, the pre-printed section listing a pre-printed word-based play phrase comprised of a plurality of words; and
a random character string having a cover thereover, the cover being selectively removable to reveal the random character string.
51. (New) The lottery ticket of claim 50, the pre-printed play phrase comprised of a plurality of words whereby a prize is associated with each word in the pre-printed phrase.

52. (New) The lottery ticket of claim 51, wherein the random character string selectively matches a word in the pre-printed play phrase whereby upon such matching, a prize associated with the word is won.

53. (New) The lottery ticket of claim 51, wherein the random character string selectively containing all characters of a word in the pre-printed play phrase whereby a prize associated with the word is won.